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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Purge of Beria's Supporters

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. An important session of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party has been sitting since 5 October 1953 under Lazar Kaganovich to discuss further measures to be taken against Beria's supporters.
2. The session was called at the request of Malenkov, who reported difficulties in executing the purge. The difficulties are partly due to Molotov, who has been slowing down the purge, and partly due to Bulganin on behalf of the army, who has made his part of the purge a mild one. Voroshilov, who has been preaching moderation and unity, is also in favor of restraining the purge. Several other members of the Presidium, including Mikoyan and Saburov, have been showing indifference to the action against Beria's supporters.
3. Only Khrushchev, who took care of the purge within the Party apparatus, has supported Malenkov's action fully and vigorously, and the general feeling is that the tension created by Beria's arrest and the accompanying crisis is far from over. Beria's supporters are still very strong, especially in Siberia, where several important local governments are in their hands.
4. Among the Satellite States Beria's views on Germany are still shared by many leading figures. As a result of these factors, the date of Beria's trial, originally fixed for the second half of October, has been indefinitely postponed.
5. Dekanozov, one of Beria's closest collaborators and formerly Ambassador to Germany, escaped to the Iranian border, but was delivered to the Soviets by Iranian guards, acting under Mossadegh's orders. Alexandrovski, Beria's personal friend and former secretary general of the Committee for Atomic Energy, has been exiled to the Research Institute in Minsk.

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6. The purge of Beria's supporters in Bulgaria, which was organized by Valko Chervenkov, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, produced poor results and led to disturbances in the Bulgarian general staff.

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